

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO PACKAGES OF FOODSTUFFS

(71) I, PETER RICHARD GRAHAM YOUNG, a British Subject of The Old Rectory, Edmondthorpe, Nr. Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a Patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to packages of foodstuffs which include eggs in the shell. Traditionally and for acceptable gastronomic reasons, eggs frequently are associated with other foodstuffs which typically constitute a "breakfast." Such an association is an egg or eggs and a cereal breakfast food, where "cereal breakfast food" is defined as any food obtained by the swelling, roasting, grinding, rolling or flaking of any cereal. The invention aims at providing a convenient readily marketable package involving such association.

According to the invention a package comprises a hermetically sealed container filled with a cereal breakfast food in which is embedded and protectively supported one or more eggs in the shell each of which is so treated as to have a long edible life. Thus, the cereal as well as being part of the intended meal, acts as a physical protection for the egg or eggs. For brevity it will be assumed that "egg" includes "eggs."

Preferably the egg or each egg is preserved by one of the well-accepted methods, such as previous immersion in water-glass. In addition it or they may also be wrapped in a hermetically sealed membrane of thin plastics sheet such as polythene.

An egg so packed may be raw or boiled; if the latter it is preferably soft-boiled so that raising it to a palatable temperature will not over-cook it.

In addition, there may be wrapped around the egg, or separately hermetically wrapped and packed with the cereal, a portion of sliced bacon or ham, or other comestible which has (when so wrapped) a long shelf-life.

The whole package may be in the form of a can or a rigid plastics container filled with

the combination of comestibles, or if the cereal be appropriately firmly or tightly retained, the container may be in the form of a flexible plastics wrapping or bag: such may be vacuumised so as to compress the cereal which it contains. In any case the container may be fully or partially charged with an inert gaseous medium such as nitrogen. A small internal package of salt or other seasoning may be included.

Another way in which the invention may conveniently be performed is to use the known system of gas preservation for the eggs. In such case it is proposed to place a fresh egg in a can with its cereal packing and before the can is closed it is subjected to a fairly high vacuum for a considerable period, the vacuum is then relieved by the introduction of an inert gas, the can then being sealed. It is thus to be assumed that where I speak above of treating an egg for its preservation it is to be understood that I include any known gaseous method of preservation.

Further the invention includes the use of a container of gas-tight material such as thin sheet polythene in which the egg and its cereal packing are placed whereafter the package is evacuated and sealed. It does not require a very high degree of vacuum to collapse the cereal firmly around the egg so that the resulting complete package is quite strong and resistant to shock and is compact.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A package comprising a hermetically sealed container filled with a cereal breakfast food as hereinbefore defined in which is embedded and protectively supported one or more eggs in the shell, each of which is so treated as to have a long edible life.

2. A package according to Claim 1 in which the egg is partially or wholly cooked.

3. A package according to Claim 1 further containing a protectively wrapped portion of bacon or ham.

4. A package according to any previous Claim in which the container is a substantially rigid can.

[Price 25p]

5. A package according to any Claim 1, 2 or 3 in which the container is a hermetically sealed wrapping or bag of flexible plastics material.
- 5 6. A package according to Claim 4 or 5 which is partially evacuated.
7. A package according to any previous Claim charged with inert gas.
8. A package according to any previous
- 10 Claim in which the egg is preserved by having been previously immersed in waterglass.
9. A package comprising egg and cereal constituted substantially as described.

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